

## CLAIMS

1. A method of transmitting message signals in a communications system having a new call entering the communications system and Walsh codes that can be active and inactive, comprising of the steps of:
- (a) dividing the Walsh codes into bins;
  - (b) determining the number of active Walsh codes in the bins;
  - (c) selecting a Walsh code in accordance with the determination of step (b); and
  - (d) assigning the selected Walsh code to the new call.
2. An apparatus for transmitting message signals in a communications system having a new call entering the communications system and Walsh codes that can be active and inactive, comprising:
- (a) bins for dividing the Walsh codes into the bins;
  - (b) a value representative of the number of active Walsh codes in the bins;
  - (c) a selected Walsh code determined in accordance with the value; and
  - (d) a new call for assigning the selected call to the Walsh code.
3. An apparatus for transmitting message signals in a communications system having a new call entering the communications system and Walsh codes that can be active and inactive, comprising:
- (a) means for dividing the Walsh codes into bins;
  - (b) means for determining the number of active Walsh codes in the bins;

- 8 (c) means for selecting a Walsh code in accordance with the  
determination of step (b); and
- 10 (d) means for assigning the selected Walsh code to the new  
call.

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